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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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CM INVITES YOUTH TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES CREATED BY ORGANIC FARMING

“Agriculture will never go out of fashion”



GANGTOK, 18 JAN (IPR): The third edition of ‘Sikkim Organic Day’ was observed today at Manan Bhawan here. The Day featured a new aspect this year – the ‘Krishi Unnati Mela’ and had Chief Minister Pawan Chamling as the chief guest.

The Chief Minister congratulated and thanked the farmers and public for adopting the

idea of organic farming and providing leadership in the field of sustainable agricultural practices.

He acknowledged and appreciated the contribution of farmers and every individual and the government in making Sikkim a fully Organic Farming State.

“With this, Sikkim has given a positive message to the world,” he said.

Sikkim has been appreciated as a role model in Organic Farming across the globe and has reached new milestones in organic farming which is validated by the numerous awards and accolades bestowed upon the State at the national and international stage.

“Sikkim has set an outstanding example for the world,” he added.

The Chief Minister also urged the public to work harder to strengthen the Sikkim Organic Mission, give continuity to the success, and not leave any land fallow and thereby ensure surplus production.

He asked Self Help Groups, farmers and unemployed youth to opt for organic farming as a profession and take ad-

vantage of the opportunities created.

“Agriculture as a profession will never go out of fashion or get outdated,” he stressed.

He emphasized that the future of agriculture rests on the shoulders of the Sikkimese youth and everybody needs to make this sector more attractive, fashionable and lucrative.

He also announced his commitment to make Sikkim a self-sufficient state in dairy and perishable vegetable production and to achieve self sufficiency in Food Grains within five years. This, he said, will come under the Five Year Mission of Sikkim.

The Chief Minister encouraged people for the creation of Agro-Grower Cooperatives, Producer Associations, as these were the need of the hour to motivate group farmers into entrepreneurs, self-help groups and production compa-

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Fun and entertainment continues at Red Panda Fest



**REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 18 JAN:**

The second day of Sikkim Red Panda Winter Carnival underway here at MG Marg was a fun-packed extravaganza attended by Forest Minister, TW Lepcha, as chief guest.

The annual winter carnival has been entertaining the people of Sikkim as well tourists since 2013. It is the biggest tourism festival in the state and is billed as a major attraction for tourists.

The second day of the festival featured music, dance and band performances.

The day started with yoga and meditation by Art of Living, Sikkim Chapter, in the morning followed by the cultural performances by Soreti from the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration, Wings of Tibet, Gangtok, Maruni dance by a troupe West District.

The performances began with Emansi Gurung

of Gangtok presenting the Saraswati Vandana.

Director, Information & Cultural Affairs Department, Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA), BK Ghishing, who was present as a special guest, was felicitated with a citation and a Red Panda memento in a gesture appreciation for the participation of artists from GTA in the Fest.

In the afternoon, there were performances by artists from Nepal, GTA, a Maruni dance

turn to pg02

Tourism & Civil Aviation Department
Welcomes you to the

Sikkim RED PANDA
Winter Carnival 2019

Come experience the culture & tradition
of
SIKKIM
Where Nature Smiles

17th - 19th JANUARY

VENUE- M.G MARG | TIME- 8.00 AM ONWARDS

Sikkim RED PANDA
Winter Carnival 2019

19th JAN 2019
VENUE: M.G MARG
5:00 PM ONWARDS

Sikkim RED PANDA
Winter Carnival 2019

EPISTROPHE

19th JAN 2019
VENUE: M.G MARG
5:00 PM ONWARDS

MAJOR ATTRACTIONS
17th - 19th JANUARY
VENUE- M.G MARG | TIME- 8.00 AM ONWARDS

MORNING FITNESS PROGRAMMES (YOGA, ZUMBA, AEROBICS)
SIKKIM FOOD FESTIVAL
CULTURAL PERFORMANCE BY LOCAL ARTISTE
DJ NIGHTS
SIKKIM FILM FESTIVAL
LIVE DEMO OF HANDICRAFTS & HANDLOOMS BY LOCAL ARTISANS
INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATIONS
KID'S ENTERTAINMENT
PHOTO EXHIBITION
SHOWCASE OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS
LIVE DEMO & CLASSES OF SALADS/MOCKTAILS/PUDDINGS & DESSERTS
PARAGLIDING
HELICOPTER JOYRIDE
PORTRAIT PAINTING
RED PANDA RIDERS MEET
STALL BY BRITISH COUNCIL

Sikkim RED PANDA
Winter Carnival 2019

Golay leads SKM delegation to call on Governor



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 18 JAN:

A seven-member delegation of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha called on the Governor Ganga Prasad here at Raj Bhawan on Friday and submitted a memorandum on different issues of the State.

The delegation, which was led by the

party president PS Tamang [Golay], included SKM MLAs Kunga Nima Lepcha and Sonam Lama, working president MP Subba, senior vice-president TN Dhakal, secretary general Arun Uprety and vice-president [frontal organisation], Nakul Das Rai.

An SKM press release informed that the memo-

randum has included issues of rampant corruption, seat reservation for Limboo and Tamang in the State Assembly, tribal status for eleven left out communities, rights of the government employees and other issues.

The release adds that the Governor assured the delegation to take up all issues seriously.

Sikkim to host North Eastern States Government Driver's Forum convention

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 18 JAN:

The third convention of the North Eastern States Government Driver's Forum [NESGDF] is scheduled to held on 20 January here at Chintan Bhawan. The convention is being jointly organised by the All Sikkim Government Drivers' Association [ASGDA] and SNT Drivers' and Conductors' Association. This will be the first time that Sikkim is hosting the convention. More than 100 delegates and participants from the North Eastern States and New Delhi will be in attendance.

Addressing a press conference here today, ASGDA general secretary Gautam Tamang informed that Sikkim that NESGDF was formed on 28 August in 2016 for the welfare and better coordination between government drivers of north eastern States. The organization is headquartered in Guwahati.

Mr Tamang stated that the main objective of the convention was to build good relations and better coordination between government drivers of the north eastern states.

He added that the

convention will discuss various issues and grievances faced by government drivers of the region and work out a solution by consensus.

The convention will have Tourism Minister Ugen T Gyatso Bhutia as chief guest and Chujachen Area MLA Bikram Pradhan as guest of honour. President Milan Raj Banshi and secretary general Narendra Singh of All India Government Driver's Forum along with the president and general secretary of NESGDF will also be in attendance.

SSS wants SDF and NEDA to clarify stand on Sikkim vis a vis Citizenship Bill

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 19 JAN:

Save Sikkimese Soul, an organization which has protested the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019 believing it to be detrimental to the interests of Sikkim and the Sikkimese, has demanded that Sikkim Democratic Front and the North-East Democratic Alliance clarify their stand on this with respect to Sikkim at the earliest.

An SSS press release states that SDF and BJP should respect the sentiments of Sikkimese

people and uphold the sanctity of Article 371F which guarantees special status to the Sikkimese, an identity, which SSS remains convinced, jeopardizes this privilege.

The release draws attention to the recent assurance made by BJP general secretary to the people of Assam and other northeastern states that Assam Accord which assures that the rights and interests of the Assamese people will be respected in letter and in spirit.

The SDF, however, has

gone ahead and supported the Bill even in the Rajya Sabha, the release adds.

It rues that Mr Madhav's reassurance makes no mention of respecting provisions of Article 371F of the Constitution of India.

The organization is clearly not comfortable with the situation and has demanded that SDF and BJP come clean on their stand on the issue and explain how Sikkim's interests will not be compromised by the amendment.

Agriculture will never go...

nies for processing, value-addition and marketing.

Also today, he called on the people to exercise social policing, responsibility and accountability to sustain the organic mission and laid emphasis on exclusive preparation of organic manure such as vermi-compost and green manure.

Likewise, he called for increasing the population of cattle for propagation of dairy farming in the State and administered the concerned Department to create a Seed Bank on priority.

The two-day event is being organized jointly by the Food Security & Agriculture Development Department, Horticulture & Cash Crops Development Department, and ICAR-National Organic Farming Research Institute, with support from National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), ICAR-RCNEH Research Complex North-Eastern Hill Region and ICAR-ATARI-IV Agriculture Technology Application Research Institute-IV.

Agriculture Minister; Somnath Poudyal, in his address, said that efforts of the State Government have created a ripple effect across the Indian States and the idea of organic farming has received full emphasis in India as well, a focus not seen in the past.

It is a great privilege to see Sikkim mentioned as a role model in organic farming across the nation, he shared.

For unemployed youth of Sikkim, the government has created enormous opportunities to cater and excel in organic farming, he added.

Earlier, the Agriculture Secretary, Khorlo Bhutia, in his welcome address, spoke about the transformation Sikkim's Organic Farming Mission has delivered and the awards and accolades it has collected for the State and its growth till date.

Earlier, Chief Executive Officer, Sikkim Organic Mission, Dr S Anbalagan, presented an overview of Sikkim Organic Mission.

The programme also saw the felicitation of progressive farmers and retired officer Dorjee Tenzing Bhutia

During the program, the Chief Minister also handed over appointment orders to seven candidates to the post of Field Assistants in the Agriculture Department under the "One Family, One Job" scheme. He also released a souvenir and film on Sikkim Organic Festival.

The program was also attended by Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, KN Rai, MLAs, Chief Secretary, Heads of Departments and officers of the State Government, Panchayats, officer of ICAR-NOFRI and partner organizations, and farmers from throughout the State.

Health Deptt counters SPYF allegations on health services in West dist

SAGAR CHHETRI GANGTOK, 18 JAN

The Health Department today responded to allegations leveled by the Sikkim Progressive Youth Forum about the quality of health services in West district.

SPYF, it may be recalled, has accused the department of not adhering to or implementing the rules and norms set under the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS). They had complained of lack of proper medical facilities and stated that they would undertake a protest march from Gyalshing to Gangtok on 20 Jan to demand corrective measures.

Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Health Department, Vishal Chauhan, while addressing a press conference today, claimed that considerable improvement has been made so far at the District Hospital at Gyalshing in West Sikkim.

He further stated that this was a continuing process and that the department has been working hard to provide the best medical facilities to the people of the district.

He asserted that ambiguous allegations leveled by SPYF would de-

moralise doctors, nurses and other medical personnel who have been serving the people.

Mr Chauhan stressed that SPYF should point out exactly what the district hospital is lacking.

He added that SPYF appears uncertain and clueless itself.

"SPYF members have accepted that there is improvement in the district hospital at Gyalshing and then claim that the hospital is lacking facilities. They should to tell exactly what the hospital is lacking and make suggestions for further improvement," he said.

About the improvements at the district hospital, he said work was underway to further improve the facilities. "

The process to install new equipment and facilities is underway and soon the people will be able to take the benefit of these facilities," he said.

He informed that a team from Regional Resource Centre for North East under the Ministry of Health had visited the district hospital in September last year and submitted a report. He added that the department had also called SPYF members to the



survey but they did not turn up.

He stated that if the organisation was genuinely interested in improving of health services, they should make specific suggestions.

He also suggested that SPYF members can become members of the Rogi Kalyan Samiti and to contribute to the betterment of the health services.

While detailing the changes and improvements already completely so far at District Hospital, he informed that five additional specialists - orthopaedic, biochemist, dermatologist, anaesthetist and ENT surgeon - have been posted to the district hospital and now the hospital has 15 specialists.

Likewise, three more general duty medical of-

ficers [GDMO] have been posted, which has increased the number of GDMO to six in the hospital.

He informed that there were only three dental surgeons at the hospital earlier, and now five dental surgeons are working in the hospital and the strength of the staff nurses has been increased from 12 to 44.

He added that all seven PHCs in West District have 2 MOs each and teams of specialist doctors from STNM Hospital have been visiting Gyalshing Hospital on specific dates every week.

He informed that the hospital has received 39 more employees under the 'One Family One Job' scheme and 16 Mid Level Health Provider at PHSC. Mr Chauhan informed

that the process to fill up the post of 53 specialists and nine super-specialists was under process at SPSC and after appointment, most of the specialists will be sent to the district hospital.

He informed that advertisements for one radiologist and one general surgeon, especially for Gyalshing Hospital, have already been issued and civil works for the installation of a CT Scan machine and a blood bank were on the verge of completion.

He further mentioned that provision of dialysis service has been approved by the government for the district hospital and work for a Trauma Centre at the hospital was underway other initiatives.

Connecting Champions from Sikkim to Gujarat



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 18 JAN:

A 13-member student-teacher delegation left for Gujarat Vidhyapith as part of the "Connecting Champions" initiative of 24hours Inspired. Connecting Champions is a student exchange and exposure program.

The student exchange program was flagged off by D&HD Minister NK Subba who congratulated the students on being included in the program and encouraged them to learn, experience a bigger world and return as more confident individuals.

He also stressed

that meritorious students from the Maney-bong-Dentam constituency have been selected to travel for the exposure program and encouraged them to further excel in school and in their lives.

Speaking about Connecting Champions, Chief Learning Officer, De-waker Basnet, 24hours Inspired, said, "This is the eighth year running that we have had the opportunity to expose our students to various geographies and institutions across the country. The objective of Connecting Champions is to provide an opportunity for our students to travel to different states, stay in insti-

tutional campuses, learn about the culture of the place, showcase our culture and come back more exposed and confident to face the world outside. In the previous years, we have had the opportunity to take students to different places including Kerala, Orissa, Kolkata, Mangalore, Maharashtra and Gujarat. This year, the students travel to Gujarat Vidhyapith, an institution started by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920. I am positive they will come back with great learning from the trip".

The exposure program for the students is scheduled from 18-29 Jan 2019.

ANTHYESTHI KRIYA



Anthyesthi Kriya of Lt. Bal Bdr. Lamichaney who left for his heavenly abode on 11/01/2019 falls on 22/01/2019. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayer for the departed soul at our residence at Gale Tea Garden, Kharka Dhura, Rangli Rangliot, Dist. Darjeeling. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who stood by us during the time of bereavement.

Pranay Lamichaney (Senior Journalist) 8918852813

Fun and entertainment...

by Pelling Himalayan Academy, and a 'Maney Song' dance performance by a dance group based in Gangtok called Wings of Tibet.

In the evening, a fashion show by Miss Sikkim 2018 contestants dazzled the gathering. This was followed by entertaining performances by Perfect Stick Figure Illustrations [PSI], Mukaam Boys and NSPD Collective.

The evening closed with a DJ Night at the New Market stretch near Star Cinema Hall building.

The three-day Sikkim Red Panda Winter Carnival 2019 will be concluding in Saturday.

Maghey Mela ends with tear gas and “mild force” at Jorethang

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 18 JAN: Jorethang Maghey Mela, which concluded without incident yesterday, saw a spat between merry-makers and Sikkim Police turn ugly at around 11PM last night and ended with cops using tear gas and “mild force” to get a mob under control. Two people have been taken into custody even as the FIR is against around 45 people.

The incident, as per

police records, began at 11PM, after all traditional stalls at the Jorethang football ground, save the one being run by one Dawa Sherpa, had shut down.

As per police records, when the beat cops went to the stall to direct them to close shop, they were allegedly met by an aggressive group including Dawa Sherpa, Saran Subba and Deepak Mukhia. The Sikkim Police FIR claims that the group was aggressive and intoxicated

and manhandled the police personnel and a constable was injured in the head by a beer bottle hurled by them.

Soon, the a group of around 35 to 40 was ganged up against the police personnel who withdrew from the spot.

The police FIR goes on the contend that while the cops were assembled at the Police Station, this “group which had turned into a mob” started hurling stones and beer bot-

les towards the Police Station and raising slogans. In this episode, the Head Constable was hit on the head by one of the thrown projectiles.

Seeing the situation go out of hand, two tear gas shells were fired and the duty personnel directed to use “mild force” to disperse the mob.

The situation was brought under control and Dawa Sherpa and Deepak Mukhia taken into custody.

EC may announce Lok Sabha polls schedule in March first week

NEW DELHI, JAN 18 (PTI): The schedule for Lok Sabha elections is likely to be announced in the first week of March, sources indicated on Friday.

The term of the present Lok Sabha ends on June 3.

The Election Commission is in the process of deciding the number of phases and the months in which polling would be held, they said.

An EC spokesperson, however, said, “No decision has been taken as yet on the date when the elections would be announced.”

The charting of the phases would depend on

the availability of security forces and other requirements, the sources said, adding the announcement of the mega exercise is likely to be made in first week of March.

There is a possibility that the EC may go by precedent and hold assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh along with the Lok Sabha polls.

Since the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly has been dissolved, the EC is bound to hold fresh polls there within six months.

It was dissolved in November 2018 and the upper limit ends in May.

The poll panel may hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir along with the Lok Sabha polls as well. But it can be held before that also as much depends on the complex security situation there, they said.

In normal circumstances, the J-K assembly’s six-year term was to end on March 16, 2021. The other state assemblies and Lok Sabha have a five-year term.

While the term of the Sikkim Assembly ends on May 27, 2019, the terms of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Arunachal Pradesh assemblies end on June 18, June 11 and June 1 respectively.

In 2004, the Election Commission had announced four-phase Lok Sabha polls on February 29. While the first date of poll was April 20, the last date was May 10.

In 2009, the EC had announced Lok Sabha poll scheduled on March 2. The five-phase polls began on April 16 and ended on May 13.

In 2014, the EC had announced the election schedule on March 5 and the nine-phase electoral exercise was spread across April and May.

While the first phase polling was on April 7, the last phase was on May 12.

Delhi govt’s free entrance exam coaching scheme attracts over 4,000 students

New Delhi, Jan 18 (PTI): Within a year of its launch, Delhi government’s scheme which provides free entrance coaching for SC/ST students preparing for competitive exams has attracted over 4000 students, officials said.

The ‘Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana’, launched by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on December 9, 2017, was reviewed by Delhi Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam along with officials.

The scheme provides free coaching for students preparing for civil services, judicial services, banking, engineering, medicine, and other competitive examinations through known and established coaching institutions.

The minister, who is also the chairperson of the Delhi Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Other Backward Class (OBC), Minority and Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation Ltd, discussed ways to reach out to more students.

“Over 4000 students have enrolled for the coaching facilities for various courses so far out of the targeted 5000 students in a year,” said a government statement.

The meeting discussed proposals for roping in premier coaching institutes for better results, and extending the coaching fee cap to up to Rs 1.5 lakh.

At present, the sealing of the coaching fee is up to Rs 40,000, while the eligible students are also provided a stipend of Rs 2500 per month, it said.

Formation of a monitoring committee to look after the quality of the coaching and other issues was also discussed in the meeting.

No one is more committed to Indian cricket than Dhoni: Kohli

MELBOURNE, JAN 18 (PTI): “No one is more committed to Indian cricket” than Mahendra Singh Dhoni and batting at number five is the ideal spot for him, said Virat Kohli in stout defense of the former captain.

Dhoni faced criticism for slow batting in the ODI series-opener in Sydney before redeeming his pride and reputation with match-winning contributions in the Adelaide and Melbourne ODIs.

Acknowledging Dhoni’s contribution in the historic series-triumph in Australia, Kohli defended the former captain, saying he should be allowed breathing space.

“I think firstly as a team we are very happy for Dhoni. That he is amongst the runs, because it is very important to get runs under your belt to get

that rhythm and get that confidence back. Especially when you have not been playing so much international cricket,” said the India captain at the post-match press conference.

“Many things happen on the outside. People say a lot of things but as an individual we know that there is no one more committed to Indian cricket than Dhoni and people should let him have his space because he has contributed so much for the nation.

“They should let him figure out things on his own and what he needs to do. He is one of the most intelligent cricketers and he is not someone who is not aware about what needs to be done. As a team we are totally in sync with what he is doing and we are all very happy for him,” said Kohli.

The skipper also reckons that the just-concluded Australia series has proved that number five is the most logical spot for Dhoni.

“Dhoni batted at number four in 2016 for a while. But after that he has been pretty happy playing at five and six for the team. We felt that number five was the ideal position for him. And if you saw him bat at Adelaide as well he was pretty comfortable in that position because that allows him to do a bit of both - get some game time as well as finish games off, attacking as and when required,” Kohli said.

Dhoni, batting at number four, played a crucial role in India winning the decisive third ODI with his unbeaten 87-run knock on Friday and at Adelaide too his unbeaten half-century had scripted India’s win.

Bihar woman declines to marry drunk constable; groom gets arrested

BHAGALPUR, JAN 18 (PTI): A bride-to-be in dry Bihar declined to tie the knot when she learnt that her would-be husband had arrived in an inebriated condition, after which the groom a police constable was arrested.

According to Sub Divisional Police Officer, Kahalgaon, Dilnawaz

Ahmed, Uday Rajak a resident of Tilakpur village here who is posted in Nalanda district had reached the house of Yogendra Rajak in Akbarpur village to exchange garlands with his daughter late Thursday night.


The groom and other baraatīs were high on alcohol and they picked up

a quarrel with Prasoon Kumar Rajak, the maternal uncle of the bride, who was roughed up by the visitors, Ahmed said.

The girl, upon learning about the whole incident, announced that she would not marry a person who drank, the SDPO said adding that her decision received

wholehearted support from her family members and other villagers.

The villagers also informed the local police station about the incident following which the groom was arrested and an FIR lodged against him under relevant sections of the Excise Act, Ahmed said.



Roads & Bridges Department Government of Sikkim


NOTICE

Temporary closure of roads w.e.f. 21st January 2019 to 21st February 2019.
Stretches of road:
1. Melli Manpur Namchi Road in South Sikkim (stretch 27+300 to 28+840 Mikkhola)
2. Melli Manpur Namchi Road in South Sikkim (Stretch 11+200 to 13+00 Sumbuk to Kitam Phatak)

Timing:		
1. 8:00 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.	-----	Closed
2. 10.30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.	-----	Open
3. 11.30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.	-----	Closed
4. 1.30. P.M. to 2:30 P.M.	-----	Open
5. 2.30. P.M. to 4:30 P.M.	-----	Closed
6. 4.30. P.M. to 5:30 P.M.	-----	Open
7. 5.30. P.M. to 7:30 P.M.	-----	Closed
8. 7.30. P.M. to 8:00 A.M.	-----	Open

R.O. No. : 602/IPR.PUB/Classi/2018-19
Date: 18/01/2019

By Order
(R&B Department)



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM LAND REVENUE & DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(DILRMP, E-GOV & GIS cell, SITCO Building, Deorali, Gangtok, Sikkim – 737102)

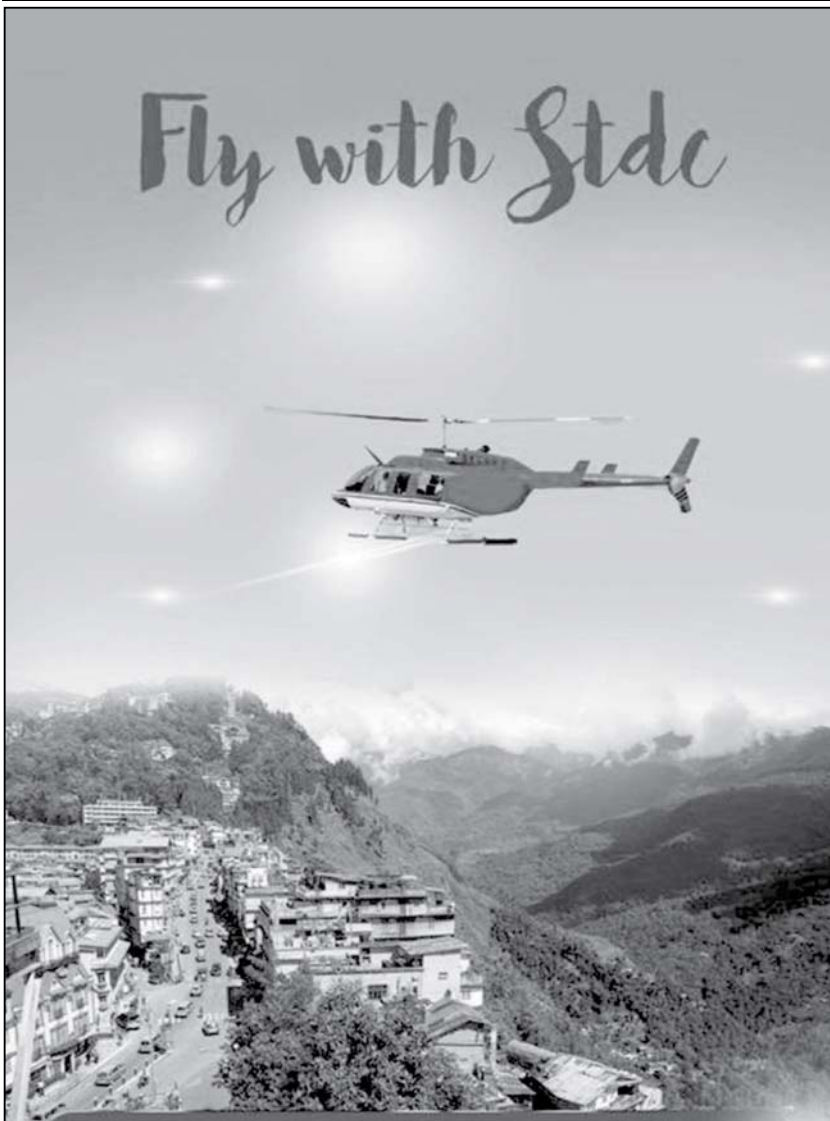
No: 149/DILRMP/LR&DMD Date: 14/01/2019.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

- INTRODUCTION**
The Sikkim Geo-Tech Society under Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Government of Sikkim intends to implement a Web Based Application that will help the Government progress faster towards the policy goals and deliver services online to the public dealing with Land Records & Property Registration, under Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP). Therefore proposals are invited from reputed and experienced Information Technology firms to participate in competitive bidding process to design, develop & implement the “**Sikkim Land Records and Registration Information System (SLRRIS)**”.
- REP AVAILABILITY, PROPOSAL DUE DATE & QUERIES.**
Interested firms may download Tender Document/Request For Proposal from the official website of the Department www.sikkim-irldm.gov.in . The last date for submission of proposals/bids is 31st Jan 2019 till 4 p.m. No proposals/ bids shall be accepted after the due and time. Query if any can be sent to the Assistant Director at spo-lr-sik@nic.in till 30th Jan 2019.

Sd/-
Assistant Director,
DILRMP, E-GOV & GIS cell, LD&DMD
SITCO complex, Deorali
Gangtok, Sikkim.

R.O. No. 600/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19
Date: 17.01.19




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Sikkim Red Panda Winter Carnival

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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Battling the Big-C

**Build better defenses.
Generate wider awareness**

The World Cancer Day is coming up in a fortnight. Of the many Days that are observed in the State, this is one that should receive wider attention. As the world over, Cancer has been palpably on the rise in Sikkim and even as better healthcare facilities are extended to patients and their families, it is important that wider awareness is generated on this health issue so that infection rates are brought down and detections made earlier. Last year marked the culmination of a three-year resolve taking place under the tagline 'We can. I can.' which was designed to explore how everyone – as a collective or as individuals – can do their part to reduce the global burden of cancer. The idea was clearly to take Cancer beyond the sole purview of doctors and the healthcare systems since just as cancer affects everyone in different ways, all people have the power to take various actions to reduce the impact that cancer has on individuals, families and communities. The World Cancer Day would be a good time for Sikkim to reflect on what it can do, make a pledge and take action. One knows that preventive action, healthier lifestyles and early detection are integral to surviving cancer.

That said, diagnosing cancer is not easy – not all cancers show early signs and symptoms and other warning signs can also appear quite late. Timely treatment is still important nevertheless and it falls on the state, since it provides the widest healthcare network, to provide it. What are also required are more effective public awareness campaigns and workplace health and wellbeing initiatives; time then for Sikkim to evaluate how it has delivered on these counts.

The CATCH programme of the State Government was a welcome step towards institutionalizing annual health check-ups because it is primarily such healthcare habits which will ensure timely and early detection. CATCH, which had unfortunately gone dormant for a while appears to thankfully be back on track, and if it is developed well, could popularize preventive healthcare against the present practice of going to hospitals and doctors only after one takes ill. In cases like Cancer, too often, this stage is too late. And make no mistake, Cancer is a major concern which is only going to loom larger in the years to come. Look around, just about everyone has some experience on the matter, either through a relative who has been diagnosed with "CA" or a friend who has someone in the family with Cancer. Noticeably, one does not meet too many Cancer Survivors. But if it is any consolation, Sikkim is not alone in the nightmare and the increase in Cancer cases here reflects a global trend.

A report of the UN shows that cancer is now the world's biggest killer – with the number of cases set to explode in coming years. A global cancer report compiled by UN agency, The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), shows that as a single entity, Cancer is the biggest cause of mortality worldwide with an estimated 8.2 million deaths from cancer in 2012. Also reflective of the unequal world we live in is a study by Lancet which reveals that while Cancer survival is generally increasing, even for some of the more deadly cancers such as liver and lung, survival trends vary widely, and there are wide and persistent disparities between countries. The first world countries post better cancer survival rates than the less "developed" nations. For example, for women diagnosed with breast cancer in the USA and Australia between 2010 and 2014, 5-year survival is 90%, compared to 66% for women diagnosed in India. That said, it is important to realize here that this is not just because the developed countries have better hospitals; wider awareness plays an as important role.

Cancer needs to be addressed also because Cancer cases worldwide are forecast to rise by 75% and reach close to 25 million over the next two decades. It is projected that by 2030, there will be 12 million cancer deaths per year!

The exclamation point reinforcing the worry, it is clearly time then that Sikkim also begins addressing this health issue on more levels than just referring Cancer patients to treatment outside the State. When one talks of a War on Cancer at the global level, one refers to the effort to find a cure for cancer by increased research and the development of more effective cancer treatments. These obviously do not apply to Sikkim and the State should consider itself lucky if it gets a good Oncology centre here itself. The multi-specialty hospital has an Oncology Centre. Hopefully, the policy makers and the babus will ensure that no corners are cut in establishing the best such facility possible. So while the world works on R&D, Sikkim should focus its energies on prevention, earlier detection/ diagnosis and screening. Sikkim could do even better by institutionalizing some form of health insurance scheme for a wider net of people because even when cure is available, it flies out of reach because of the costs involved.

Why the Indian Ocean region might soon play a lead role in world affairs

CRAIG JEFFREY
theconversation.com

In recent days, Australia's foreign minister Marise Payne announced efforts to strengthen Australia's involvement in the Indian Ocean region, and the importance of working with India in defence and other activities. Speaking at the Raisina Dialogue in Delhi – a geopolitical conference co-hosted by the Indian government – Payne said:

"Our respective futures are intertwined and heavily dependent on how well we cooperate on the challenges and opportunities in the Indian Ocean in the decades ahead."

Among Payne's announcements was A\$25 million for a four-year infrastructure program in South Asia (The South Asia Regional Infrastructure Connectivity initiative, or SARIC), which will primarily focus on the transport and energy sectors.

She also pointed to increasing defence activities in the Indian Ocean, noting that in 2014, Australia and India had conducted 11 defence activities together, with the figure reaching 38 in 2018.

Payne's speech highlights the emergent power of the Indian Ocean region in world affairs. The region comprises the ocean itself and the countries that border it. These include Australia, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Madagascar, Somalia, Tanzania, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

In terms of global political significance, the Atlantic Ocean can be viewed as the ocean of our grandparents and parents; the Pacific Ocean as the ocean of us and our children; and the Indian Ocean as the ocean of our children and grandchildren.

There is an obvious sense in which the region is the future. The average age of people in the region's countries is under 30, compared to 38 in the US and 46 in Japan. The countries bordering the Indian Ocean are home to 2.5 billion people, which is one-third of the world's population.

But there is also a strong economic and political logic to spotlighting the Indian Ocean as a key emerging region in world affairs and strategic priority for Australia.

Some 80% of the world's maritime oil trade flows through three narrow passages of water, known as choke points, in the Indian Ocean. This includes the Strait of Hormuz – located between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman – which provides the only sea passage from the Persian Gulf to the open ocean.

The economies of many Indian Ocean countries are expanding rapidly as investors seek new opportunities. Bangladesh, India, Malaysia and Tanzania witnessed economic growth in excess of 5% in 2017 – well above the global average of 3.2%.

India is the fastest growing major economy in the world. With a population expected to become the world's largest in the coming decades, it is also the one with the most potential.

Politically, the Indian Ocean is becoming a pivotal zone of strategic competition. China is investing hundreds of billions of dollars in infrastructure projects across the region as part of its One Belt One Road initiative.

For instance, China gave Kenya a US\$3.2 billion loan to construct a 470 kilometre railway (Kenya's



biggest infrastructure project in over 50 years) linking the capital Nairobi to the Indian Ocean port city of Mombasa.

Chinese state-backed firms are also investing in infrastructure and ports in Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and Bangladesh. Western powers, including Australia and the United States, have sought to counter-balance China's growing influence across the region by launching their own infrastructure funds – such as the US\$113 million US fund announced last August for digital economy, energy, and infrastructure projects.

In security terms, piracy, unregulated migration, and the continued presence of extremist groups in Somalia, Bangladesh and parts of Indonesia pose significant threats to Indian ocean countries.

Countries in the region need to collaborate to build economic strength and address geopolitical risks, and there is a logical leadership role for India, being the largest player in the region.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the Shangri La Dialogue in June, 2008:

"The Indo-Pacific is a natural region. It is also home to a vast array of global opportunities and

challenges. I am increasingly convinced with each passing day that the destinies of those of us who live in the region are linked."

More than previous Indian Prime Ministers, Modi has travelled up and down the east coast of Africa to promote cooperation and strengthen trade and investment ties, and he has articulated strong visions of India-Africa cooperative interest.

Broader groups are also emerging. In 1997, nations bordering the Bay of Bengal established the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), which works to promote trade links and is currently negotiating a free trade agreement. Australia, along with 21 other border states, is a member of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) which seeks to promote sustainable economic growth, trade liberalisation and security.

But, notwithstanding India's energy and this organisational growth, Indian Ocean cooperation is weak relative to Atlantic and Pacific initiatives.

Australia's 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper seeks to support IORA in areas such as maritime security and international law. Private organisations, such as the Minderoo Foundation, are doing impressive research – as part of the Flourishing Oceans initiative – on the migration of sea life in an effort to advance environmental sustainability and conservation.

But Australia could focus more on how to promote the Indian Ocean. In Australia's foreign affairs circles, there used to be a sense Asia stopped at Malta. But it seems the current general understanding of the "Indo-Pacific" extends west only as far as India.

What this misses – apart from the historical relevance and contemporary economic and political significance of the Indian Ocean region generously defined – is the importance of the ocean itself.

NOT JUST IMPORTANT FOR TRADE AND TIES

If the Ocean was a rainforest, and widely acknowledged as a repository of enormous biodiversity, imagine the uproar at its current contamination and the clamour around collaborating across all countries bordering the ocean to protect it.

The reefs, mangroves, and marine species that live in the Ocean are under imminent threat. According to some estimates, the Indian Ocean is warming three times faster than the Pacific Ocean.

Overfishing, coastal degradation, and pollution are also harming the ocean. This could have catastrophic implications for the tens of millions of fishermen dependent on the region's marine resources and the enormous population who rely on the Indian Ocean for their protein.

Australia must continue to strengthen its ties in the region - such as with India and Indonesia - and also build new connections, particularly in Africa.

[the writer is Director and CEO of the Australia India Institute; Professor of Development Geography, University of Melbourne]

Exercise can fast-track your workplace well-being – here's how

RHI WILLMOT
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Exercise has been found to reduce stress, increase positive mood, decrease anxiety and alleviate depression. But you may not know that the emotional well-being associated with exercise is also linked to key attributes that can help us while we work.

One of the most established of well-being frameworks (PERMA) states that of the many ways to experience happiness, five areas are most important: positive emotions, mental engagement, strong relationships, meaning in life and accomplishing goals. At face value, achieving all five may seem a colossal task. But many activities from tennis to triathlons, squash to swimming, can help us clinch all five at once. Evidence suggests that, as a result, we are more likely to avoid job burnout, sleep more easily and be more engaged at work.

1. Positive emotions

The "runner's high" is at the peak of positive emotion. While this euphoric feeling is most typically linked to pounding the pavements, it can be experienced via any activity which works both muscles and heart.

The high comes from endorphins – the body's natural painkiller – being made available in the areas of the brain which process mood and emotion. Understood as an evolutionary advantage, the high enables us to keep moving even when our muscles are tired, and even a short burst of this positive feeling can help us feel more energised. So next time you're feeling low, try squeezing in some physical activity around work. It could give you a morning boost or stave off the post-lunch crash.

2. Mental engagement

Being in the zone is no easy task in a distracting workplace. Scientifically known as "flow", this engagement level is the optimal amount of challenge required for personal growth. The Goldilocks of arousal, flow occurs when a task is sufficiently difficult

cut-throat, the shared pain of limit-busting events can stimulate compassion, and the more we suffer personally, the better we empathise with others. This not only strengthens our social skills, but also manifests in directing greater kindness to ourselves.



to avoid boredom, but not so hard that we become overwhelmed. The flow experience is associated with decreased activity in the posterior cingulate cortex – an area of the brain responsible for our sense of self. So flow literally allows us to lose ourselves in the moment.

Physical activities which provide a just-manageable challenge are great for getting into flow. Even better are water-based sports which prevent the use of distracting technology, like sailing, swimming or rowing. Detaching from work in this way gives us time to recharge, meaning we can return with maximum productivity.

3. Strong relationships

While competitive sport can seem

Research indicates that self-compassion is a more effective strategy than self-criticism when we face difficulty. So, practising kind self-talk during sport can enable a more positive response to previously unbeatable workplace challenges.

4. Meaning in life

A philosophically foggy concept, meaning in life has been scientifically pinned down as having three components: purpose (core goals and aspirations), significance (impact beyond the trivial and immediate), and coherence (understanding own values and life story). Meaning in life can provide a stable foundation when we face adversity, and helps us to make sense of troubling events. Importantly, some

studies have found that a stronger sense of purpose is associated with moving more.

5. Accomplishments

The value of feeling competent and successful is well known, but greater attention has recently been devoted to the manner in which we interpret success. Research into growth and fixed mindsets suggests that whether we believe ability can change (growth) or not (fixed) is central to our well-being.

Those with a growth mindset are more likely to work on developing their skills, embrace feedback as an opportunity to learn, and use setbacks to adapt and thrive. On the other hand, those with a fixed mindset fear failure, take feedback personally, and are discouraged by bumps in the road.

But this can change. Researchers have found that a person's mindset can be influenced by something as simple as greater self-awareness. All kinds of

physical activities can objectively show us we can achieve goals that at first seemed out of reach. You might think that you'll never be able to lift a certain weight, for example, but persist, and you will see how strong – both mentally and physically – you truly are.

You don't need to be super fit, or even a regular gym-goer to benefit from the well-being perks that come with exercise. Getting active a few times a week can be enough to not only transform your physical fitness, but also boost your mood and performance, in and outside of work.

[the writer is PhD Researcher in Behavioural and Positive Psychology, Bangor University]

Mamata's mega opposition rally: New UP political alignment to reflect on Bengal stage

KOLKATA, JAN 18 (PTI): Hundreds of kilometers away from Uttar Pradesh, the state's new political alignment will reflect in full glory here on Saturday at the mega anti-BJP rally being organised by Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress.

Days after Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav and Bahujan Samaj Party's Mayawati, both former chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh, announced an alliance for their home state to take on BJP unitedly in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, senior leaders of the two parties will be together on the dias at TMC's "United Opposition Rally" at iconic Brigade Parade Grounds here.

While Yadav would be himself present at the rally, BSP will be represented by senior leader Satish Chandra Mishra.

Ajit Singh and Jayant Choudhary of Rashtriya Lok Dal, another key political force in Western Uttar Pradesh which is also talking to join the SP-BSP alliance, will also be present, while Congress -- against which the new combine has decided not to put any candidate in two key seats of Aamethi and Rae Bareilly in UP -- will be represented by



senior leader Mallikarjun Kharge at the rally.

While presence at the rally of all major parties with significant stake in UP assumes significance, their leaders sought to downplay it saying it was rather a congregation of all opposition parties, irrespective of states.

"This is an anti-BJP rally. So many opposition parties are taking part in it and we are also part of it. It has nothing to do with Uttar Pradesh politics as that is a completely different turf," Samajwadi Party

vice president Kiranmoy Nanda said.

The Congress too felt the mega opposition rally should not be confused with political equations in UP.

The host, Trinamool Congress said "regional political compulsions" should not be mixed with the bigger political cause attached with the proposed rally.

Other leaders expected to be present include Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Karnataka Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy and

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. Besides, former prime minister H D Deve Gowda, as also former chief ministers of Jammu & Kashmir Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah would be there.

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's (DMK) M K Stalin and dissident BJP MP Shatrughan Sinha are also among those billed to attend the mega rally.

From Congress, Kharge and his party colleague Abhishek Manu

Singhvi will take part in the rally. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) supremo Sharad Pawar, former union ministers Yashwant Sinha and Arun Shourie, Patidar leader Hardik Patel, Dalit leader Jignesh Mevani and Jharkhand Vikas Morcha's Babulal Marandi will also be present on the stage alongside the TMC supremo Banerjee.

Former Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Gegong Apang, who quit the BJP on Tuesday, is also set to attend the meet.

Mizo civil societies not in favour of voters list revision of Bru refugees in Tripura

AIZAWL, JAN 18 (PTI): A conglomerate of major civil societies and student bodies Friday demanded that revision of voters' list among the Bru refugees living in Tripura be conducted only after they return to Mizoram, the state they originally belong to.

Leaders of the NGO Coordination Committee placed the demand at a meeting with the Mizoram Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Ashish Kundra here.

"Our stance is clear: Revision of voters' list for Mizoram should be conducted only inside the state, and for the Brus, only after their return to Mizoram," NGO Coordination Committee Chairman Vanlalruata said after the meeting.

He said the CEO informed them about instructions from the Election Commission (EC) to conduct revision of electoral rolls in the Bru relief camps in North Tripura district.

Vanlalruata said the Committee would hold a meeting about the EC's instruction.

"We discussed the modalities of Bru voters for parliamentary elections," the CEO said, adding that the meeting was held in a spirit of mutual understanding.

Kundra told PTI that he thanked the Committee leaders for their support during the election to the state legislature held on November 28 last.

The meeting between the Committee and Kundra was held after an umbrella organisation of the Bru refugees living in six relief camps in Tripura urged Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora to direct the Mizoram election department to revise electoral rolls in the relief camps.

The Mizoram Bru Displaced People's Forum (MBDPF) also appealed to Arora to set up polling stations for the Lok Sabha election in their relief camps.

Following an order of the EC, the Mizoram election department in August last year had conducted revision of voters lists of Bru refugees in their camps, despite op-

position from the civil societies. Later, enlistment forms duly filled in by inmates of the relief camps were stolen at the election office of Mizoram's Mamit district on August 23, two days before the month-long repatriation of Bru families from Tripura to Mizoram was to start from August 25.

However, out of 5,000 odd refugee families, only 150 members of 42 families returned to Mizoram during the month-long exercise.

Thousands of Bru refugees from Mizoram fled to Tripura during an ethnic violence in 1997. The clashes broke out after a forest official was killed by Bru National Liberation Front (BNLF) militants.

The Centre, in association with the governments of Mizoram and Tripura, was repatriating the displaced Brus in phases.

Though several Bru families have returned to Mizoram over the years, many refused to leave Tripura citing security reasons and inadequate package.

Former Arunachal CM Apang to float new party



KOLKATA, JAN 18 (PTI): Former Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Gegong Apang, who quit the BJP after a four-year association earlier this week, Friday said he will form a new political party.

Asserting that he will not join any other party, Apang said, "I will float a new party."

The 69-year-old leader arrived here to attend Saturday's mega opposition rally at the invitation of West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee.

He praised Banerjee as a 'great leader' and expressed support for her initiative to defeat the Narendra Modi government at the Centre.

Apang has been the chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh for 22 years in two stints - from January 1980 to January 1999 and again from August 2003 to April 2007.

Apang resigned from the saffron party in a letter sent to party president Amit Shah on Tuesday. He had left the BJP and joined the Congress ahead of the 2014 general election.

Thunder coach fumes after lights go out at the Gabba

BRISBANE, JAN 18 (AFP): Cricket Australia was Friday desperately working to find out why floodlights failed in a Big Bash League game at the Gabba, barely a week away from the venue hosting a day-night Test against Sri Lanka.

The match between Brisbane Heat and Sydney Thunder on Thursday evening was abandoned after the lights went out in parts of the ground, leaving players and fans fuming.

"We are now working with Stadiums Queensland to investigate why this occurred, and to ensure there will be no further issues at future matches," said CA

official Anthony Everard in a statement.

The sport's governing body said under its terms, refunds for fans were not applicable due to 23 overs being played, but offered them free tickets to the Test match in Brisbane next week.

Thunder coach Shane Bond earlier urged a review of the rules after the farcical scenes.

His team had plundered 186 for four in the Twenty20 competition on Thursday evening, anchored by a century from veteran Shane Watson.

In reply, the Heat were reeling at 10 for two in pursuit when two floodlights failed in one part of the Gabba.

Citizenship bill: Centre likely to call NE CMs meeting to resolve concerns

NEW DELHI, JAN 18 (PTI): Amid strong protests over the controversial Citizenship Amendment Bill, the Centre is expected to soon call a meeting of the chief ministers of all northeastern states to address concerns, sources said.

A decision in this regard was taken after Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh discussed the matter in detail with Mizoram and Meghalaya chief ministers in a meeting here.

The controversial bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on January 8.

However, large scale protests were witnessed in the northeastern states including Assam and Mizoram over the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Dem-

ocratic Alliance (NDA) government's attempt to pass the bill in the Upper House of Parliament.

"There was a serious discussion on the bill in the meeting. The centre has assured that it will look into the concerns of northeastern states before moving ahead," a highly placed government source said.

"Most likely, a meeting of chief ministers of all northeastern states will be called soon to resolve their concerns," the source added.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma said: "Northeastern states will be forced to take a call if it does not get a positive response on the scrapping of the bill."

In the meeting, Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga said the centre was informed that all northeastern states were opposing the bill and the law should not be diluted.

"It (amendments) should not be there. Let it be as it is. Let it not be amended as it is proposed. That's what we want," he said.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, provides for Indian citizenship to Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis who fled religious persecution in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan after six years of residence in India instead of the current requirement of 12 years, even if they do not possess any document.

'Threatened' Ladakh tribe seeks govt help to preserve heritage

NEW DELHI, JAN 18 (PTI): A tribe of Jammu and Kashmir's Ladakh region has demanded that the Centre make serious interventions to help it preserve its cultural heritage, which, experts say, is under threat due to rapid "modernisation, migration and religious conversion".

Members of the Dard Aryan tribe submitted a charter of demands to Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Sudarshan Bhagat on Friday.

The tribe, inhabiting Dha, Hanu, Beema, Darchik and Garkone villages in Leh and Karig districts, claims to be the descendants of "pure Aryan race". Many researchers believe they are the descendants of Alexander, an official of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) said.

"The villages are together called the Aryan

valley. The people of the region are completely different from those in other parts of Ladakh. The community prohibits marriage with outsiders to keep the gene pool intact. Of late, the Dard men are marrying outside the tribe," the official said.

The tribe is considered "threatened" due to their depleting numbers, which, at present, is around 4,000. They are mainly dependent on agriculture and are "educationally and economically backward", he said.

The Dard Aryans do not document their history and they have carried forward their cultural legacy orally. Most of them have embraced Islam or Buddhism and modernisation has had a negative impact on their traditions, he claimed.

Members of the tribe -- participating in a six-day festival, 'Celebrating

Dard Aryans of Ladakh', here -- claimed that there were only three high schools in their villages and very limited resources of livelihood.

As such, they have no option but to migrate to cities. They demanded that the government set up a tribal hostel in the region and declare the Aryan valley a heritage village.

"So far, the government has not been able to do anything for the Dard Aryans. Its policies and programmes have failed to reach them. Not many people in the country know about the tribe, which is considered threatened," Virendra Bangroo, an INGA scholar, said.

"We are making an effort to help these people preserve their culture and tradition, which is under threat due to modernisation, migration, and conversion," Bangroo added.

KOLKATA, JAN 18 (PTI): The scheduled rallies of BJP in West Bengal has been deferred by two days to January 22 owing to its national president Amit Shah's ill health, party officials said Friday. "As he (Shah) is not well, we have decided to change dates (of the rallies) so that he can attend them. There has been change in dates. Amit Shah will address the first rally on January 22 in Malda," Dilip Ghosh, president of the West Bengal unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party said. Shah, who has been admitted to the All

India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, with swine flu, is doing well and will be discharged in a day or two, the party had said Thursday.

On January 23, Shah will address two rallies at Suri in Birbhum district and Jhargram district. On January 24, he will address rallies at Krishnanagar in Nadia district and Jaynagar in South 24 Parganas district, Ghosh said.

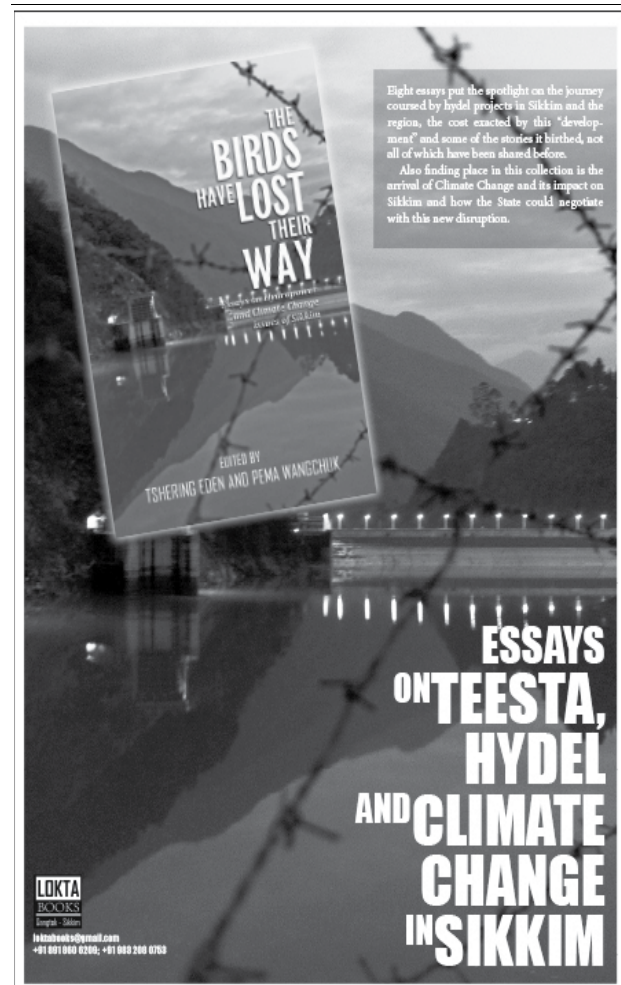
The BJP has identified West Bengal as a priority state for the upcoming general elections and Shah has set a target of winning 22 of the state's 42 Lok Sabha seats.

The party is also looking to host a few rallies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi although the dates have not been confirmed yet, Ghosh said.

In the last few years, the BJP has emerged as the main opposition in the state with a commendable show in rural polls and by-elections.

Shah's rally will come just days after TMC's mega opposition rally.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday had asked the West Bengal government to allow proposed public meetings and rallies of the BJP under its "Ganatantra Bachao Yatra".



Standing tall Down Under: Dhoni anchors, Kedar finishes as India win ODI series

CHETAN NARULA

MELBOURNE, JAN 18 (PTI): Mahendra Singh Dhoni rekindled his love affair with final flourishes, anchoring India to their maiden bilateral ODI series triumph in Australia for a perfect finish to a historic trip Down Under here Friday.

Virat Kohli's men became the first country to return from Australia without losing a single series having won the Test series 2-1 and drawn the T20 Internationals 1-1. From a dasher, to a finisher to finally the anchor in the last leg of his career, Dhoni 3.0 was in full flow during India's successful chase of 231 in the third and final ODI on a sluggish Melbourne pitch after Yuzvendra Chahal set it up with a career-best 6 for 42.

"It wasn't an easy wicket to bat on, so it was important to take the game deep," said India skipper Virat Kohli in the post-match presentation.

"Two set batsmen there who knew what to do and they got the job done. We've been here a long time, it's been an amazing tour. We drew the T20 series, won the Test series and now the ODIs. If you had given me these results before the tour, I would have gladly taken it," he added.

Dhoni's unbeaten 87 off 114 balls was a testimony to his high quality match awareness as the street-smart Kedar Jadhav (61 no, 57 balls) donated the role of a finisher.

The former India skipper's role going into the business end of his illustrious career is that of an anchor, who takes the game deep.

He performed his role to perfection with world class exhibition of running between the wickets in what could well be his last match on the Australia-



lian soil. Not to forget the 'Man of the Series' award for a hat-trick of half-centuries and two coming in winning causes.

While Dhoni was lucky to be dropped on 0 and 74 but Australian bowling never had the sting to unsettle the Indian batsmen despite skipper Virat Kohli (46) being dismissed with more than 100 runs left.

Chasing 231, India got off to a slow start as well. Australia created some good pressure with the new ball, in particular Jhye Richardson (1-41) who tied down Rohit Sharma (9).

It worked as the right-handed opener was caught at slip in the sixth over. Despite Kohli coming to the crease thereafter, India struggled in the first powerplay and only scored

26-1 in the first ten overs.

Kohli added 44 runs with Shikhar Dhawan (23) for the second wicket, but it was a slower partnership than usual thanks to some tight bowling and fielding by Australia in this passage of play.

The duo tried to cut loose, as Peter Handscomb dropped Kohli (on 10) at first slip off Billy Stanlake (0-49) in the 12th over. But things turned around for Australia when Dhawan lobbed a return catch to Marcus Soinis in the 17th over. While Kohli and Dhoni added 54 runs off 82 balls for the third wicket, it was an uncharacteristic partnership. There were two incidents of confusion between the wickets first in the 21st over when

Kohli was stranded and was saved for a lack of a direct hit.

The Dhoni-Jadhav (121 runs) partnership then took some time in getting going. In the meantime, Dhoni reached his 70th ODI half-century off 74 balls.

Jadhav then soothed Indian nerves as he scored his fourth ODI half-century off 52 balls, as the equation came down to 14 needed off 12. He struck two fours in the penultimate over off Peter Siddle (1-56) to close in on the match.

Earlier, Yuzvendra Chahal picked up 6-42 as Australia were bowled out for 230 runs (48.4 overs). Chahal matched Ajit Agarkar's 6-42 in 2004 as he recorded the joint best-ever ODI figures on Australian soil. In doing so, he also improved

on his previous best of 5-22 against South Africa at Centurion in January 2018.

Chahal varied the pace of his deliveries and also used the deception in his flight to make life miserable for Australian batsmen. For Australia, Peter Handscomb (58) scored a fighting half-century and took them to a respectable total after they were reduced to 161-6 at one stage.

Play was delayed by ten minutes because of rain and, after the first two balls in the Australian innings there was a further 20-minute delay before weather improved. The hosts faltered under cloudy skies though as Bhuvneshwar Kumar (2-28) and Mohammed Shami (2-47) bowled excellent opening spells.

Fast Federer celebrates 100 with Fritz blitz at Open



MELBOURNE, JAN 18 (AFP): Ageless defending champion Roger Federer marked his 100th match on Rod Laver Arena Friday by storming past American Taylor Fritz 6-2, 7-5, 6-2 in the third round.

The 21-year-old world number 50 had no answer to the precision and finesse of the Swiss master, who extended his Open-era record for the most appearances in the fourth round of a Grand Slam to 63 with an 88-minute demolition.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion will continue his quest for a record seventh Australian Open title against Greek 14th seed Stefanos Tsitsipas in the last 16.

Federer blitzed the young American from the start, barreling through the first set in just 20 minutes. It prompted Nick Kyrgios, commenting on Australian TV, to proclaim: "The way Federer is moving is scary. This is ridiculous tennis."

Former junior world number one Fritz was bidding to reach the last 16 at a Grand Slam for the first time and put up a better fight in the second stanza.

He held serve to lead 4-3 and had a glimmer of hope at 0-30 in the next.

But Federer, as he has done so many times in

the 20 years he has been coming to Melbourne, stepped up through the gears and got out of trouble by unleashing a repertoire of great shots including a serve-volley, a forehand winner up the line and ace.

At 5-5, Federer converted the second of two break points and served out for a two-set lead.

"Taylor played really well," said Federer.

"The first serve dropped up at times, but you can see the upside. He is going to have many more years on tour playing at this level. It is pretty cool to watch him play."

Federer was clearly in no mood to hang about and put his foot back down on the gas to race through the third in just 26 minutes. Ominously for his rivals, he is yet to drop a set this year and came into the Australian Open on the back of victory in the mixed teams Hopman Cup.

Federer has won the last two tournaments at Melbourne Park in a late career resurgence and on this form will be hard to stop from extending his all-time record with a 21st major victory. Federer, Novak Djokovic and Roy Emerson have all won six Australian Opens -- although the Australian great's victories all came before the Open era.

Juventus move to next target in Serie A as AC Milan 'lick wounds'

MILAN, JAN 18 (AFP): AC Milan coach Gennaro Gattuso conceded

his side will have to lick their wounds and come out fighting after losing the Italian Super Cup trophy to an all-conquering Juventus who turn their focus back to their next target -- an eighth consecutive Serie A title -- after the three-week winter break in Italy. Unbeaten Juventus host bottom club Chievo in Turin on Monday, a team they opened their season against with a 3-2 win in Verona, looking to stretch their lead to 12 points after 20 games.

Massimiliano Allegri's side currently have a nine-point advantage on second-placed Napo-

li who face a tricky test against Lazio on Sunday.

"We've started 2019 on the right foot. Forward to the next target," warned Cristiano Ronaldo, who scored the only goal in Jeddah against Milan in midweek to bring his tally to 16 in all competitions. It was Allegri's tenth trophy as Juventus boss and, after losing two of the last three Super Cup trophies, a boost in his side's assault on all fronts including the Champions League.

AC Milan -- in fifth, one point behind Lazio -- are looking for a morale-boosting return to the Champions League places against a Genoa side who have just one win in their last 12 league games. "We lick

our wounds," said Gattuso, who will watch the match from the stands after receiving a one-match touchline ban for angrily protesting a refereeing decision in Jeddah.

It was a punishing game in the heat for AC Milan who will also be without suspended trio Franck Kessie, Alessio Romagnoli and Davide Calabria in Genoa. Kessie was shown a straight red card while Calabria was booked for a foul and captain Romagnoli also given a yellow card for dissent.

Spanish midfielder Suso however returns from suspension after missing the Super Cup.

"We have to remain calm," said Gattuso. "The important thing is recoup-

ing our energy." Inter Milan host Sassuolo behind closed doors in their San Siro stadium as punishment for racist chanting by their fans towards Napoli defender Kalidou Koulibaly before the winter break.

The club -- comfortably in third place seven points ahead of fourth-placed Lazio -- have been allowed to invite local schoolchildren to the match against Sassuolo.

But Luciano Spalletti's side proved that an empty stadium was no obstacle as they cruised into the Coppa Italia quarter-finals with a 6-2 win over second-tier Benevento last week. Koulibaly, meanwhile, remains suspended for Napoli's game against Lazio at the San Paolo Stadium.

President Trump cancels Pelosi's foreign trip citing shutdown

WASHINGTON, JAN 18 (PTI): US President Donald Trump has postponed House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's trip to meet military officials and troops in Afghanistan and Brussels, saying she was needed here for negotiations to end the partial government shutdown.

Trump's move came Thursday a day after the House Speaker urged him to reschedule his annual State of the Union address slated for January 29, citing security concerns triggered by the shutdown that has entered its 27th day.

"Due to the shutdown, I am sorry to inform you that your trip to Brussels, Egypt, and Afghanistan has been postponed. We will reschedule this seven-day excursion when the Shutdown is over," Trump said in a letter to Pelosi, a copy of which was released to the press.

The president also said postponing this "public relations event" was totally appropriate.

The longest-ever shutdown in US history has rendered over 800,000 federal employees without work, crippling the functioning of several key wings of the government including Security and State department.

In light of the 800,000 great American workers not receiving pay, I am sure you would agree that, Trump said.

However, Pelosi's spokesman Drew Hamill said the visit's purpose was to express appreciation to US troops and obtain "critical" briefings from them. The trip did not have Egypt as a stop, he said.

The shutdown is a result of the bitter political divide over border security issue as the Democrats who now enjoy majority in the House have refused to approve a legislation approving USD 5.7 billion in federal funding to construct a wall across the US-Mexico border.

"I also feel that, during this period, it would be better if you were in Washington negotiating with me and joining the strong border security movement to end the shutdown. Obviously, if you would like to make your journey by flying commercial, that would certainly be your prerogative, Trump said.

The president said: I look forward to seeing you soon and even more forward to watching our open and dangerous Southern Border finally receive the attention, funding, and security it so desperately deserves!

Trump's letter to Pelosi came soon after the House Speaker told reporters at the US Capitol that the president has been silent for more than 24 hours on the issue of rescheduling his annual State of the Union address.

We haven't heard. It was a very silent more than 24 hours, to your question that you ask me every time I step out of the office, have you heard? No, we haven't heard yet. Pelosi said taking a dig at the president.

The House Speaker's spokesman, Hamill, said the Congressional Delegation to Afghanistan included a required stop in Brussels for pilot rest.

In Brussels, the delegation was scheduled to meet with top NATO commanders, US military leaders and key allies - to affirm the United States' ironclad commitment to the NATO alliance. This weekend visit to Afghanistan did not include a stop in Egypt, the spokesman said.

The purpose of the trip was to express appreciation and thanks to our men and women in uniform for their service and dedication, and to obtain critical national security and intelligence briefings from those on the front lines, Hamill said. White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said, We want to keep her (Pelosi) in Washington. If she leaves, she guarantees that the second round of paychecks to 800,000 federal workers won't go out. The deadline to make that deal is midnight on Tuesday."

She wasn't scheduled to be back until Wednesday. The president wants her here to negotiate," she said.

President Trump insists that building a wall is the only solution to protect the nation from a large flow of illegal immigrants and drug smuggling. The Democrats are opposed to any such funding. After Trump walked out of a meeting at the White House last week, Democrats have refused to come to the negotiation table.

Chelsea clash vital in Arsenal's need for Champions League cash

London, Jan 18 (AFP): The need for the riches as much as the prestige of a return to Champions League football leaves Arsenal little room for error when Chelsea visit the Emirates on Saturday. A run of three defeats in their last six Premier League games has left the fifth-placed Gunners six points adrift of their London rivals in the battle for a top-four finish.

However, it is Chelsea and not Arsenal who are reinforcing in the January transfer window to ensure they are not forced to cope with the consolation prize of the Europa League for a second consecutive season.

Chelsea boss Maurizio Sarri seems set to finally get the striker he wanted in Gonzalo Higuain on a loan deal from Juventus having worked with the Argentine international during a prolific 38-goal season at Napoli in 2015/16.

Arsenal's problems are at the other end of the field. No side in the top half of the table have conceded more than the 32 goals Unai Emery's men have in

22 Premier League games.

However, Emery has revealed that Arsenal do not have the funds to make signings this month unless they are on loan. Arsenal ranked sixth in Deloitte's latest Football Money League ahead of the likes of Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea and Liverpool with a near 500-million-euro (USD570 million) income.

However, while Premier League leaders Liverpool spent big on marquee signings Alisson Becker and Virgil van Dijk to transform their defensive record, Arsenal are paying a heavy price for a series of costly contracts and an imbalanced squad.

The club's highest earner Mesut Ozil penned a new three-and-a-half contract worth a reported 350,000 pounds (USD 450,000) a week last January as Arsenal feared losing one of their prized assets for free. Just days earlier to get some return for Alexis Sanchez, who also wound his contract down into its final months, Arsenal agreed an exchange deal to sign Henrikh Mkhitaryan from Manchester United on a deal worth a reported

200,000 a week until 2021.

However, neither player can count on the confidence of Emery. The two creative midfielders have started together just four times in the league this season and Ozil was dropped from the squad entirely for last weekend's defeat at West Ham.

- BUDGET DEFENSIVE BUYS EXPOSED -

The deadline-day signing of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang last January has proved far more successful. The Gabon international is tied with Mohamed Salah and Harry Kane as the Premier League's top scorer with 14 goals this season. But the 56 million paid for Aubameyang broke a club-record transfer fee set by the signing of another striker Alexandre Lacazette just six months earlier.

Emery has also struggled to get both into his starting line-up with Lacazette growing increasingly frustrated at playing second fiddle.

With so much spent on strengthening the forward areas, a limited budget when looking for a new goalkeeper in

Bernd Leno and ageing defenders Sokratis Papastathopoulos and Stephan Lichtsteiner in the summer has been exposed. To make matters worse, head of recruitment Seven Mislintat, the man hired to get Arsenal better value in the transfer market just 14 months ago due to a sterling reputation earned at Dortmund, is reportedly set to leave the club after recently seeing his influence diminished.

The one obvious way to ease the economic strain is a return to the Champions League after a two-year absence, making victory this weekend imperative. "We have time to achieve that this season," insisted Emery this week, but the Spaniard believes he will be afforded time given the restraints put upon him. "We knew there were going to be difficulties in this process. The most important thing is to be aware that the difficulties will come, and at that moment still be able to make progress.

"That is the idea. The idea is to get Arsenal back to where the club deserves to be, but it needs time.



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
SINGTAM

Memo No. 62/AES/R&B

Date: 11 / 01 / 2019

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer-Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department Government of Sikkim, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of Class IV Grade enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No: 515/R&B/PWD/Secy, dated 12.06.2018 and notification No. 556/R&B/PWD/Secy. dated: 28.08.2018 for the construction of fair weather roads, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of the Concerned Ward of the Gram Panchayat Unit of Singtam-Khamdong Constituency where the work is to be executed. The details of works and time schedule are as under:

SL No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (in Rs)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (in Rs)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs)	Completion Time
1	Const. of road from Beng to Bhirkuna (addl.)				
	Km 1st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months
2	Const. of road from Phurkey Dhunga road (below St. Thomas School) to Badang				
	Km 1st	Rs. 21,19,248.00	Rs.52981.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months
3	Const. of new road at Ramitey Dara				
	Km 1st	Rs. 21,19,248.00	Rs.52981.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months
4	Const. of new road from Chandey to Pengring (addl.)				
	Km 1st	Rs. 21,19,248.00	Rs.52981.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months
5	Const. of new road from Maney Gumpa to Thansing (addl.)				
	Km 1st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	09 months
6	Const. of new road from Ganesh Mandir to Upper Thase via Subedi Gaon (addl.)				
	Km 1st	Rs. 33,90,794.00	Rs. 84,770.00	Rs. 1,500.00	09 months
7	Const. of new road from Ganesh Mandir to Milk collection centre (Chyan Dara to Ghataney gaon).				
	Km 1st	Rs. 8,47,702.00	Rs. 21,193.00	Rs. 1,500.00	09 months

TIME SCHEDULE:-

1	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt & TDR for issue of Tender Documents .	28th January 2019 (10.00am to 4.00pm) at resepctive Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.
2	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender:	29th. January 2019 (10.00am to 1.00pm) at resepctive Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.
3	Date and Time for Opening of Tender:	29th. January 2019 (1:30 PM) at resepctive Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:

- 1 Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors/Firms of appropriate Class/ Area.
- 2 The intending tenders/contractors should apply in writing for issue of tender documents. The application would be invariably be signed by the contractor himself/herself. The tender documents will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDER. The application shall be submitted initially for each works listed above with all required documents.

- 3 The application should enclosed attested copies of the a) Goods & Services Tax Clearance Certificate (b) Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along the application. It is mandatory to produce the original validated/Updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/Issue of the Tender Documents for verification.
- 4 The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtain during the period specified in (As abovefrom the office of the Assistant Engineer-Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department, Singtam on production of requisite Bank Receipt of the State Bank of Sikkim towards the cost of Tender Documents (Non-Refundable) under the Head "0059-80-800" cost of Tender Form (Roads & Bridges).
- 5 Earnest money deposit @ 2.50% in the State Bank of Sikkimshall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedule Bank which includes deposits in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipt (TDR) in favour of the Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, NirmanBhawan, Gangtok. Tender Form shall be issued only on production of toward deposit receipts of 2.50% earnest money.
- 6 The Tender documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the tenderers and the name of work superscripted on it, supporting documents listed at Sl. No: (a)&(b)above should be enclosed with the offer.
- 7 Sealed Tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the office of the Assistant Engineer-Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department, Singtam, on the date and within the time indicated above.
- 8 Tenders shall be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderers on the date and time indicated above.
- 9 The Tenderer shouldsign on every page of the tender documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of the contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST and all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and corrections should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
- 10 In case of any discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents, rates as per approved Schedule of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the Schedule of Rates (SOR), the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the PCE-cum-Secretary/Head of the Department will be final in the regard.
- 11 The work value, scope and quantum of the work are subjected to change; the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account is entertained whatsoever. If any claim is made, it shall be as per the agreement rates.
- 12 The Department reserves the rights to hold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.
- 13 Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his/her own risk and cost.The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labour at site.
- 14 The offer shall remain valid for a period for 90 (Ninety) days. The work should commence within 15 (fifteen) days form the issue of Work Order.
- 15 All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5.00% of the value of work done.
- 16 The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- 17 The recoveries of Royalties on Forest Produce shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
- 18 Subletting of contract work is against the norms and it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
- 19 The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- 20 In case the man power employed by the contractors are from outside the State or neighboring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractors to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
- 21 Use of explosive shall be regulated as under:
 - (a) Transportation, Handling, storage and use of Explosives (if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provision of the India Explosive Act and General Guidelines, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities on the subject from time to time.
 - (b) The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportation, storage; handling and use of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.
- 22 The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e. beginning, middle and completion stages.
- 23 Damage of properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- 24 It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his/ her bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
- 25 The cost of Stock materials supplied from the Departmental store will be deducted from the contractor's bills as per rules.
- 26 The bidders shall produce a Certificate of Residence from the concerned Gram Panchayat Unit where the work is to be executed.

Sd/-

R.O. No. 596/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19
Date:14.01.2019

ASSISTANT ENGINEER
SINGTAM SUB DIVISION
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT



ICONIC! Supermodel Naomi Campbell debuts a fierce new hair style as she arrives at the Louis Vuitton Menswear show in Paris wearing a flowing dress, nude blazer, and leather boots.

Kendall Jenner emotionally details her “Debilitating” struggle with acne

Kendall Jenner is opening up about the emotional journey she experienced due to acne.

In a lengthy Instagram post on Thursday, the model shares that while she understands there are “much bigger problems happening in the world,” her battle with acne was “debilitating” at times. “It’s something that I’ve dealt with since I was a young teen and has caused me to feel anxious, helpless and insecure,” the 22-year-old writes.

To the average outsider, Kendall’s life seems glamorous and carefree, but she hopes to change that by showing a “younger generation that not everything is perfect.”

Moreover, Kendall says, “As humans, I don’t think we share our insecurities enough because we live in a time where being “perfect” is the standard.”

She continues, “We curate our life online and pick the pretty moments to post.” And believe it or not, Kendall is still able to find a silver lining in her struggle with acne. She says that the anxiety she experienced on a daily basis gave her the “tough skin” that one would likely need to survive in the sometimes harsh modeling industry.

Nonetheless, the model “wouldn’t ever wish that feeling [of anxiety] upon anyone,” even if it taught her a lot. So Kendall is proud to promote Proactiv because she knows what it is like to try “countless options,” but find no solution. Thanks to the skincare brand, Kendall says it is easier “maintaining clear skin” and she is “excited” to see the improvement. “I didn’t think I’d see the day where I would feel confident posting a makeup free picture,” Jenner wrote.

The Keeping Up With the Kardashians star also shared a #10Year-Challenge photo showing how her skin has improved since she was 13-years-old. She captioned the pic: “I was 13 and ran home crying everyday because people would stare at my skin.” Nowadays people can’t stop staring at her skin, but for a totally different reason: it’s flawless.



BLACKPINK’s Jennie is the new face of Korean beauty brand HERA

What a week it’s turning out to be for BLACKPINK member, Jennie Kim! The main vocalist of the Korean girl group, who turned 23 yesterday, has got an exciting new gig to kick off 2019. K-beauty conglomerate Amorepacific announced earlier this week that Jennie would be joining their family of models, actresses and idols as the new face of their fashionable beauty brand HERA.

In a statement, Amorepacific acknowledged, “Jennie will be working together with Jun Ji-hyun (Gianna Jun) as our model.” The company also said that the “Solo” singer would start her official activities with the brand next month.

HERA is one of the top beauty brands in South Korea, and is well-known for their revolutionary cushion foundations — one of which is reportedly sold every two seconds. The beauty brand is also the title sponsor of the biannual Seoul Fashion Week, which has risen to prominence for its out-there street style, star-studded front rows and experimental fashion designers.

Um, Tidying Up With Marie Kondo was almost a scripted TV show

So, would you watch a scripted series about Marie Kondo’s book? Or a movie? It almost happened.

In an interview with The Hollywood Reporter, Tidying Up with Marie Kondo executive producer Gail Berman revealed there was other interest in The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up before it became a reality show. “We acquired the rights to Kondo’s book about three years ago when we met Marie and started to work with her. Initially, we were interested in doing the show in a scripted format and we were also approached to do it as a film, but we finally identified the most appropriate way for this journey to end. There were ups and downs, but we always thought that there was something very special in Marie and her message,” Berman said.

What would a scripted series look like? A sitcom about Kondo-like character? Visions of that crashing and burning immediately do not spark joy in us. Thankfully, they went another route and put Kondo on screen to help real families.

The response has been overwhelming, Berman said. And while the show has been compared to Netflix’s other reality hit, Queer Eye, Berman said the differences in Kondo’s process and the others is Kondo’s is “profound.” “Marie does not do the transformation for you; you must do and commit to the transformation. Marie’s not coming over with a team of people and cleaning your house, it doesn’t work like that. In Queer Eye, the guys go out and they buy the clothing and help with the transformation in a significant way. Marie is causing a transformation in a much more spiritual way,” she said.

REQUIRED FOR CANADA

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Can’t reveal: Imtiaz on working with Kartik and Sara in his next

There are reports that filmmaker Imtiaz Ali is making a film featuring Kartik Aryan and Sara Ali Khan but the director says “nothing is confirmed” as of now.

There have been speculations that the film will be on the lines of his hit “Love Aaj Kal”, featuring Kartik and Sara.

When asked about the same, Imtiaz told reporters, “I can’t reveal now since we haven’t announced anything. We are trying to work it out... There’s nothing confirmed now but we are working towards a film. But can’t say anything now.”

The director, who last helmed Shah Rukh Khan starrer “Jab Harry Met Sejal”, said he plans to start

shooting by this year.

“As a story idea, it has been with me since a very long time. I’ve been discussing it. In fact,

said while speaking at the studio launch of JAM8, founded by music composer Pritam.

The director said he has

alised what is the material that I have, what’s good what’s not so good. “Sometimes in our world, there is so much spoken you don’t realise what actually you have with you and what is it you’d like to passionately do. I realised there were quite a few. So I’ve penned all of them. Let’s see what shape they take and when they’re made,” he added.

Imtiaz will also make a film on Radha-Krishna but says the project will take time. “I’ll definitely make it but in my head that’s a very big film so it’ll take a while to make it properly. The kind of film it is, I want the purity to come through. I’ll take time to make the film,” he added.



I find there are reflections in the interviews where I’ve said things like that. I’ve been saying that and feeling that, perhaps not even as a story but one day I realised there is a story. But I’ve written it like recently,” he

written several stories since he started his own production.

“There were a lot of things in my mind and I have written several stories this time. Since I started my company, I thought I must write them down and re-

ARIES: Love, luck, charisma—it’s all yours today as romantic Venus forms a golden trine to your ruling planet, sexy Mars in Aries. Fill every room you enter with your personality—and make sure you shift to your brightest and most optimistic attitude. Even if you’re talking about a tough topic or bringing a message of change, you can still say it in a way that inspires people to see new possibilities. Sparks could fly with someone from another background—or a person quite different from your usual “type.”

TAURUS: Take it in, Taurus. Love planets Venus (your ruler) and Mars have a special summit today in the most emotional and spiritual zones of your chart. Under this tender trine, your heart opens and you can safely be vulnerable. Allow yourself to receive, Taurus—it’s your turn now. Your intuition could be spot-on today, especially about one particular relationship!

GEMINI: Is it time to move a special someone out of the friend zone? Today’s sweet alignment of the love planets, Ve-

nus and Mars, could send sparks flying with a previously platonic person. This could very well be one of the most affectionate and ardent days of the year. Couples can really get back in sync, remembering how much you LIKE each other beyond just the romantic attraction.

CANCER: Peace returns to the workplace today as harmonious Venus and go-getter Mars connect in a rare, feel-good trine. Relationships between employers and employees is especially sweetened. If you’ve been trying to catch a higher-up’s attention or connect with a client, this is a great day to do so. If you’re in a leadership role, be sure to show some appreciation to your support team. The morale boost will have a positive ripple effect.

LEO: Love globally! Today’s expansive alliance of romantic Venus and sexy Mars ignites the most passionate and adventurous zones of your chart. Coupled Leos might want to book tickets for a dream vacation or even a spontaneous getaway this weekend. Single? If you’re traveling,

you could meet someone, or you might connect with a person from a different background than yours.

VIRGO: Time to get closer? Love planets Venus and Mars form a harmonizing trine in the most emotional and intimate zones of your chart. Couples might discuss moving in together, buying a house, baby plans or just making more time to bond. Single? Lean into the unconditional love of your family and closest friends. Once your tanks are full from their support, you can venture into the dating world without a “scarcity” mindset. Your confidence and groundedness will attract secure people! **LIBRA:** Love wins today! Your ruler, amorous Venus, forms a rare and dazzling trine to sexy Mars. Not only are these seductive planets in fine formation, they’re also touching down in the interpersonal zones of your chart. Translation: You’ve got the gift of gab and major magnetism. Use your charm to disarm and rock your persuasive powers, whether you’re flirting with a love prospect or sealing a business deal.

SCORPIO: Practical magic? Beautifying Venus and motivating Mars make a sweet trine in the most productive houses of your

chart today. Bring some pleasure to your routines, pausing to savor the moment as you move through your day. Apply this aesthetic to healthy food and exercise. Mindfully plate your meals and eat the “rainbow” (think: purple kale, orange cauliflower).

SAGITTARIUS: Bring on the passion! Romantic Venus in your sends major heat to Mars in your lusty fifth house and makes you a total love magnet. This could be one of the hottest days of 2019 for you, so take advantage of your amorous mojo. If you’re in a relationship, share your desires or plan a sexy evening a deux. Single? Under these bold skies, you might be the one making all the first moves—apps not required.

CAPRICORN: Bless this nest! Today’s beautifying and bolstering Mars-Venus trine touches the most sentimental and homey parts of your chart. If your decor could use an upgrade, tap into this aesthetic aspect and transform your abode into a sensual sanctuary. Today’s stars could also inspire a healing or bonding moment with a woman in your life. Forgiveness is indeed divine, so if fences need to be mended, this is the

perfect moment.

AQUARIUS: Just friends...or something more? Today’s rare and harmonious Mars-Venus trine ignites the feel-good vibes in the most social zones of your chart. You could meet someone with romantic—or at least, BFF—potential through mutual friends or your own hobbies. Get out there in true Aquarius style and mingle. Ask people questions about themselves and their interest. Your curiosity could spark some major synergies. Open up!

PISCES: Stability is sexy! Although your sign can find excitement in drama, today’s trine between the love planets, Mars and Venus, makes security your aphrodisiac. You’ll be drawn to people who have their lives together, perhaps even a coworker or someone you meet through your career. Remember that you’re every bit as amazing a catch as this person, and don’t hoist them onto any pedestals. Paired-up Pisces could reach “power couple” status today. Dress up and cut a fiery figure with a dynamic-duo date night.